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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Agenda items 6 and 7
Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, including the seven thematic areas of the outcome document of the special session

Algeria, Andorra, Belarus, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Thailand and Viet Nam: revised draft resolution

Strengthening efforts to prevent drug abuse in educational settings[1]

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Fully aware that the world drug problem constitutes a serious challenge to public health and the safety and well-being of humanity, including children and young people and their families and communities,

Bearing in mind that the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that should continue to be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and that demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach,

Reaffirming its unwavering commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures, and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States,

Reiterating its commitment to promoting the health, welfare and well-being of all individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, and facilitating healthy

[1] Such as schools, colleges and universities.
[2] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

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lifestyles through effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction initiatives at all levels, covering, in accordance with national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures, as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse,

Reaffirming its determination to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity, and reaffirming its determination to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] in which Member States committed themselves to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, strengthening the prevention of substance abuse, and protecting human rights,

Recalling also its resolutions in which it put emphasis on preventing drug abuse by children and youth, and reiterating that children and youth are our most precious asset,

Recalling further that in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem[4] and in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem",[5] Member States recognized, inter alia, the need to work with children and youth in multiple settings, including educational and non-educational settings, with a view to preventing drug abuse among children and youth,

Recalling that the *International Standards in Drug Use Prevention* acknowledge that school attendance and attachment to schools are important measures to prevent drug abuse among children,

Recalling also the need to take effective and practical primary prevention measures that protect people, in particular children and youth, from drug use initiation by providing them with accurate information about the risks of drug abuse, by promoting skills and opportunities to choose healthy lifestyles and develop supportive parenting and healthy social environments, and by ensuring equal access to education and vocational training,

Noting with concern the challenges posed by drug abuse and drug use disorders in educational settings, which can seriously undermine national efforts aimed at providing opportunities for the health and well-being of children and youth,

Emphasizing that educational settings have a significant role to play in promoting education on drug abuse prevention among children and youth, as well as healthy lifestyles, through curricular and extracurricular activities, including sports, as well as primary prevention and early intervention programmes, among others, in education systems, as appropriate,

Noting the publication entitled *School-based Education for Drug Abuse Prevention*,[6] as well as the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* and *Good Policy and Practice in Health Education: Education Sector Responses to the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs*, published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[5] General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.21.

and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts by Member States to prevent drug use among children and youth in educational settings, including through effective, scientific evidence-based and context-sensitive awareness-raising and prevention programmes, and recognizing the need to intensify those efforts,

Noting the ongoing work and initiatives by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including capacity-building initiatives that seek to promote family, school and community-based prevention programmes such as the Families and Schools Together programme and the Youth Initiative,

Noting also the ongoing work and initiatives by Member States, other relevant international organizations and civil society organizations to assist in the development and implementation of scientific evidence-based prevention programming and policies, for example the universal prevention curriculum,

1. *Urges* Member States, as appropriate and where consistent with relevant national law, as part of their comprehensive drug demand reduction measures at the national level, to strengthen efforts, as appropriate, to prevent drug abuse in educational settings, in both the public and private sectors, including by developing and implementing comprehensive, scientific evidence-based and tailor-made initiatives and programmes aimed at providing children and youth with information regarding drug abuse and its harmful effects and consequences, as well as drug use prevention, counselling and skills, resilience and opportunities to choose healthy lifestyles, and also urges Member States to promote safe and drug-free environments in educational settings;

2. *Encourages* Member States to enhance efforts to develop or update drug prevention curricula and to promote policies and tools that target relevant ages and risk factors in multiple settings, and to integrate them, as appropriate, into all levels of education with a view to advancing drug prevention in educational settings as part of a balanced national drug policy, as appropriate and in accordance with domestic law and priorities;

3. *Emphasizes* the significance of enhancing coordination and cooperation among all relevant stakeholders, in particular education, health and law enforcement authorities, as well as social and, as appropriate, religious authorities, to develop, implement and regularly monitor and assess the impact of comprehensive scientific evidence-based initiatives and programmes aimed at preventing drug abuse in educational settings;

4. *Invites* Member States to strengthen, as appropriate, interaction and partnerships with students, teachers, families and communities, including with a gender perspective, as well as the private sector and civil society, when designing and implementing comprehensive drug prevention initiatives and programmes tailored to educational settings;

5. *Encourages* Member States to promote the exchange of good practices and experiences in preventing drug use in educational settings, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate such exchanges;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as part of its efforts to promote follow-up to the prevention-related provisions of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem[3] and to the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem",[4] to assist Member States, upon request, in addressing the challenge of drug use in educational settings;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, upon request, support to Member States relating to technical assistance and

capacity-building programmes for the purpose of preventing drug use in educational settings, and also requests the Office to assist Member States in promoting research and data collection in this regard to better understand the challenge of drug use in educational settings and respond to it more effectively;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States, upon request, in developing scientific evidence-based curricula aimed at training the relevant authorities on the latest techniques for the prevention of drug abuse in educational settings;

9. *Invites* Member States to increase, within their capacity, the availability, coverage and quality of gender-sensitive, scientific evidence-based prevention measures and tools in multiple settings reaching children and youth through drug abuse prevention programmes and public awareness-raising campaigns;

10. *Invites* relevant international organizations and civil society organizations, academia and the scientific community to assist Member States, upon request, in strengthening effective, scientific evidence-based drug prevention initiatives and programmes for educational settings;

11. *Decides* to continue discussions, during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on the topic of strengthening measures to prevent drug abuse in educational settings with a view to promoting the exchange of good practices on preventing drug use in educational settings;

12. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as part of existing reporting obligations, to report to the Commission, at its sixty-second session, on the implementation of the present resolution.